

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## FEBRUARY 2008 BRUSH FIRES

### SITUATION REPORT # 3

1700 Hours February 11, 2008

*The next Situation Report will be 12 February 2008 at 1700 hours.*

### SUMMARY

Multiple wildfires have been reported in 62 localities across the Commonwealth. High winds have fueled the fires and made fires difficult to contain. Requests for assistance from localities **have come in from several localities. Power outages continue to plague the Commonwealth.**

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited staffing. The VEOC remains on backup power.

**State of Emergency:** Governor Tim Kaine declared a State of Emergency on February 10, 2008 at 1740 Hours.

**Federal Declaration:** No declaration has been requested at this time.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared on February 10, 2008 by:

Bedford County  
Roanoke County  
Caroline County  
Orange County  
Dinwiddie County  
Lunenburg County  
Nelson County  
King George County  
Henrico County  
Hanover County

Local Emergency Declared on February 11, 2008 by:

**Charlotte County**

### COMMAND STAFF

**ESF 15 – External Affairs:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Currently increasing readiness of the Joint Information Center. WRIC-TV 8 taped an interview at the EOC. CNN, AP Richmond, Richmond Times Dispatch, WCVE, ABC NY, CBS Charlottesville all conducted phone interviews.

Department of Forestry in coordination with the VEOC sent out a press release on February 11, 2008 summarizing the event to date.

### WEATHER

**Forecast:** Tuesday: Overnight temperatures will drop into the teens to lower 20s. A weather system will affect the area late Monday night bringing a limited chance for precipitation in the far southwest area overnight. Temperatures will be milder Tuesday with potential highs in the 40s to 50s.

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**Local Liaison:**

Regional Coordinators are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resource and shelter status.

**ESF 16 – Military Affairs:**

Virginia National Guard (VANG)

Currently increasing readiness of the Joint Operations Center. 100 National Guard personnel at Ft Pickett 11 February for training by DOF in fire line defense; **can** be deployed 12 February as necessary.

**2 helicopter crews are on standby at Sandston.**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH**

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:**

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)

The Forestry Command Center is operational and **has coordinated** response to widespread fires in the following jurisdictions:

- Dinwiddie (evacuations and 3 homes lost)
- Brunswick (1 home lost)
- Chesapeake (1 home lost)
- Campbell (1 home lost)
- Suffolk (I-664 impacted)
- Louisa (evacuations and **1 home lost**)
- Bedford (evacuations)
- Roanoke (evacuations)
- Essex, Hanover, Chesterfield, Henrico, James City, New Kent, Caroline, Spotsylvania, Nelson, Amherst, Orange, Augusta, Pittsylvania, Lunenburg, Prince Edward, Appomattox, Halifax, Buckingham, Floyd, Patrick, Carroll, Grayson

**There approximately 200 fires reported statewide with over 6,000 acres burned; some fires as large as 1000+ acres, some between 500 and 100 acres, and many smaller ones. A large percent of these fires are now contained. More than 740 firefighters worked against these blazes from Virginia Beach to Roanoke and into Fairfax County.**

DOF Regional Type III Incident Management Teams in Place at the Regional Offices in all but Region 6.

Central Office Type III Incident Management Team being mobilized to assist with the Nelson/Amherst County incidents.

**Resources:**

- 2 National Guard Blackhawk crews available beginning early morning of February 11.
- DOF Plane – providing aerial recon of areas West of I-95
- State Police Helicopter – providing aerial recon East of I-95
- Helicopter Bucket Support – 3 contract ships (Type 3) in use beginning early AM 02-11-08
- VDOF moving dozer and personnel resources out of Region 6 to provide additional help to other areas of the state.
- **Type II Federal Incident Management Teams and 7 Type I Federal Firefighting Teams with 20 person crews have been deployed.**

VDOT Fuel Service, Request through VEOC – Brunswick Co. – Ultimately VDOT was unable to supply any fuel to the incident – DOF left in a pinch because they were planning for the fuel to be delivered – 2 hours later (1:00 am) when VDOT backed out – DOF had to start from scratch to locate fuel with very little time.

Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)

Tracking and supporting 29 mission requests to support 12 localities.

## HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

### **ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services:** Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

Southside Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is providing mobile feeding throughout Brunswick, Nottoway and Dinwiddie counties. Tabernacle Zion Church is open for sheltering to evacuees of Reedy Creek area, **but there are no people sheltered at this time. The site will remain on standby.** A second shelter is being opened at Dinwiddie Elementary School **with an estimated population of 20 evacuees.** Dinwiddie Emergency Management advises they are sending two school buses into fire areas in Dinwiddie County to support evacuation. **The Southside Area Chapter has also been placed on standby for Sussex County for feeding and sheltering due to fires that are not contained at this time.**

Roanoke Chapter of the American Red Cross reports a shelter opening at Roanoke Civic Center due to power outage in the area.

The Historic Chapter of the American Red Cross opened Montvale School in Bedford County and served **100 lunches and 35 dinners to workers and evacuees.** It had 40 evacuees until shelter closed at 2130 hrs. Wood Haven nursing home has 30 evacuees.

Louisa County Middle School has 4 evacuees. Lake Anna Rescue Squad was opened but did not receive evacuees. ARC is taken off stand by in Louisa at 2239 hours on February 10.

Amherst High School was open but received no shelterees.

Nelson County made their fire station available for one couple, but they have since have left. No other shelters were opened in Nelson County and the ARC was taken off standby for Nelson County at 2239 hours on February 10.

Lunenburg shelter at Victoria Fire and Rescue building opened at 1900 hours on February 10 for 12 citizens and their pets. This shelter closed at 0700 February 11, 2008. Shelterees returned to their homes around midnight.

Grayson County opened two shelters at the **Baywood Rescue Squad building and Independence Rescue squad building. Currently, 10 people are sheltered. Red Cross providing cots and food.**

**Craig County opened a shelter and received cots and blankets from the Red Cross should anyone request shelter due to 50% power outage across county.**

### **ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

**Monitoring power restoration, responding to jurisdictional requests, and monitoring shelter situation, nursing homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities.**

## INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

### **ESF 1 – Transportation:** Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Hundreds of trees are down. Only one primary road is still closed, but 45 secondary roads are closed. The possibility of additional road closures continues today with weakened trees. No VDOT facilities were damaged with this event.

Interstate and Primary routes that are currently impacted:

- Suffolk County Route 664 at Monitor-Merrimac Bridge Tunnel - reopened
- Augusta County Route 252 to Rt. 709 – reopened
- Louisa County Route 522 north of Rt. 648 – reopened
- Roanoke County I-81 S at mile marker 145 – reopened
- Goochland County I-64 eastbound at mile marker 172 – reopened

Botetourt County Route 460 at Carters Bank and Trust - reopened  
 Charlotte County Route 59 at Rt. 47 to Rt. 40 – reopened  
 Page County Rt. 340 at Rt. 685 – reopened  
 Isle of Wight County Route 669 - reopened  
**New Kent County Route 60 at Rt. 1002 – downed power lines**  
**Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel – No wind restrictions**

**ESF 12 – Energy:**

State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Currently there are approximately **68,000** outages statewide. **Dominion plans to have all customers up by February 12; Appalachian Power by February 14. Contact is being made with the Virginia Board of Elections to determine if polling sites are functioning for the primary on February 12; for those sites that will not have power restored, alternate options are being developed.**

The outages are spread throughout the state. The breakdown is as follows:

**Dominion – approximately 12,497**

**Hardest impacted areas:**

Chesterfield	2,200
Albemarle	2,000
Richmond	1,500
Henrico	100
Goochland	800
Alleghany	600

**Allegheny Power – 158**

**Appalachian – 50,000**

Roanoke	32,000
Pulaski	4,300
Lynchburg	3,600
Carroll, Wythe, Henry, Amherst, Franklin	1,800 each

The cooperatives are reporting scattered outages throughout their territories with approximately 5,500 out. Southside Electric Cooperative has the most with approximately 4,000 (concentrate in Charlotte, Lunenburg and Appomattox Counties).

**LOGISTICS SECTION**

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the localities and state agencies. **Sixteen** requests for assistance have been received and are being worked.

**LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

There are a total of 62 localities that have active, contained or extinguished fires. Five local emergency operations centers remain open and eight local emergency operations centers have closed. Fourteen localities requested assistance and eleven localities declared local emergencies.

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